

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application (Applicant's previous amendments filed on August 3, 2004 in response to the June 3, 2004 final office action have not been entered).

Claims 1-33 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 6, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 22 have been amended, as set forth herein.

Claims 5, 10, 21, 26 and 28-33 have been canceled, without prejudice.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Novas (US 5,023,906). Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 22, and canceled Claims 5, 10, 21, 26, 28 and 31, without prejudice. The Advisory Action mailed September 28, 2004 indicated that these amendments would place Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-20, 22-25 and 27 in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enter these amendments and withdraw the § 102(b) rejection of these claims.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29, 30, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Novas (US 5,023,906) in view of Lai (US 5,479,501). Applicant has canceled Claims 29, 30, 32 and 33, without prejudice.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103 rejection.

III. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-20, 22-25 and 27 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *rmccutcheon@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date: _____

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